Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 /074 W -------101816Z 022411 /43

PR 101657Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 607

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF ETA PRISONERS/YBARRA KIDNAPPING

REF: MADRID 4418

1. WITH THE RELEASE OF NINE ETA (BASQUE TERRORIIST) PRISONERS YESTERDAY, CENTRIST MADRID DAILY "INFORMACIONES" REPORTS THAT ONLY TWO ETA "HISTORICAL" (ARRESTED FOR PRE-DECEMBER 15 CRIMES) PRISONERS ARE STILL IN SPAIN. THEIR RELEASE IS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY. A FEW ARRESTED FOR CRIMES COMMITTED AFTER DECEMBER 15 (THE DATE OF THE SPANISH REFERENDUM) REMAIN IMPRISONED, AND THEIR STATUS MAY EVENTUALLY PROVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUNDS FOR FUTHER CONTROVERSY.

2. IN THE SHORT RUN, THE RELEASSES HAVE APPARENTLY TAKEN THE STEAM OUT OF THE ANNOUNCED JUNE 8 - JUNE 15 WEEK OF AMNESTY DEMONSTRATIONS. TWO THOUSAND PERSONS MARCHED YESTERDAY IN SAN SEBASTIAN, BUT TO DATE THE MOVEMENT LACKS MOMENTUM AND NO VIOLENCE HAS BEEN

REPORTED.

3. MEANWHILE, THE KIDNAPPERS OF SR. YBARRA HAVE REPORTEDLY TOLD A BILBAO RADIO STATION THAT HIS RELEASE DEPENDS SOLELY ON PAYMENT OF RANSOM BY HIS FAMILY, AND THAT THEY REGARD THE POSSIBLE EXTRADITION TO SPAIN OF CAPTURED ETA LEADER "APALA" (REF) AS "BLACKMAIL" WHICH THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT.STABLER

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Disposition Event:
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